

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05

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----- 105959

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8723

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

SECNAV WASHDC

COMANTDEFCOM ROOSEVELT ROADS PR

CNO WASHDC

NUSC NEWPORT RI

NUSC DET AUTEC WEST PALM BEACH FL

NUSC DET AUTEC ANDROS ISLAND BAHAMAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR BF US

SUBJ: LOAN OF AUTEC ROAD EQUIPMENT TO BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT

1. AT THE REQUEST OF MR. ORIS RUSSELL, PERMSEC, MINEXTAFF, A MEETING WAS SCHEDULED AT EMBASSY ON OCT. 6, 1976 AND ATTENDED BY DCM, NLO, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS DARRELL ROLLE (ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS FRESH CREEK, ANDROS CONSTITUENCY MP), MR. H. C. WALKINE, PERMSEC, MINWORKS, AND MR. C. G. COOPER, DIRECTOR, MINWORKS.

2. AT MEETING GCOB OFFICIALS POSED QUESTION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF USG LENDING SOME AUTEC ANDROS ROAD EQUIPMENT (GRADER, ROLLER, BULLDOZER, ETC.) TO MIN WORKS TO REPAIR AND POSSIBLY HARD SURFACE APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES OF THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN FRESH CREEK AND BEHRING POINT. UNDER THEIR PROPOSAL, GCOB WOULD PAY FOR FUEL, PAY FOR AND/OR PROVIDE OPERATORS, AND PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BOTH EQUIPMENT AND OPERATORS. GCOB OFFICIALS ENVISIONED TIME PERIOD INVOLVED TO BE FROM
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TWO TO FIVE MONTHS ON A NOT-TO-INTERFERE BASIS WITH AUTEC

BASE REQUIREMENTS.

3. GCOB OFFICIALS WERE ADVISED THAT SUCH A REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE BY GCOB MINEXTAFF TO EMBASSY. THEY WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT, AT THIS TIME, PREDICT WHAT THE POSSIBLE RESULTS MIGHT BE OF SUCH A REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SUCH A PROJECT MIGHT BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST, SINCE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS AUTECH ALREADY MAINTAINS THAT SECTION OF THE TEN MILES THAT LEADS FROM THE BASE TO THE AIRFIELD. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD FORMAL REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT WHEN RECEIVED FROM GCOB. AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE WOULD QUITE OBVIOUSLY PLEASE MINISTER ROLLE WHOSE BELATED INTEREST IN ANDROS ROADS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HIS CAMPAIGN FOR RE-ELECTION.

5. NEW SUBJECT: ROLLE, OBVIOUSLY REVERTING TO HIS MINISTER'S HAT, STATED THAT WITH REGARD TO OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO EMPLOY MORE BAHAMIANS (AND SPECIFICALLY ANDROSISANS) AT AUTECH, HE DID NOT FEEL THE SYSTEM WAS WORKING. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME DISCRIMINATION AGAINST EMPLOYING MORE BAHAMIANS ON THE PART OF AUTECH RCA PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT AND MENTIONED THE CASE OF A WOMAN INTERVIEWED FOR A STOCK CLERK POSITION WHO WAS REPORTEDLY ASKED TO IDENTIFY A NAVY STOCK NUMBER, WHICH SHE WOULD HAVE HAD NO REASON TO KNOW WITHOUT HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN AN EXPLANATION OF THE SYSTEM.

6. COMMENT: THE MINISTER WAS INVITED FORMALLY TO BRING SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF THIS NATURE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY, AND WAS ASSURED THAT ANY DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES DISCOVERED WOULD BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY. AT SAME TIME EMBASSY WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF NAVY COULD DIRECT RCA TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE CASE FILE ON ALL INDIGENOUS JOB APPLICANTS AND THE RESULTS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS WITH, IN THE CASE OF THOSE NOT HIRED, THE REASONS FOR THAT DETERMINATION. IN A PRE-ELECTION ATMOSPHERE, MINISTER ROLLE CAN WELL BE EXPECTED TO PURSUE ISSUE. HOWEVER, IF PRESENTED WITH IRREFUTABLE LOGIC AND REASONS FOR A NON-HIRE, HE WOULD MOST PROBABLY ACCEPT RCA'S DECISION.

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UM FINALLY, MINISTER ROLLE ALLEGED THAT BOTH AUTECH AND NAVFAC, ELEUTHERA HAD AS EMPLOYEES, INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE ILLEGALLY IN THE BAHAMAS AND, THEREFORE, WERE ACTING AS REFUGES FOR THESE ILLEGAL ALIENS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT BOTH FACILITIES HAVE SOME LOCALLY PROCURED NON-U.S., NON-BAHAMIAN EMPLOYEES, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH FACILITIES CLEARED ALL SUCH PERSONS IN WRITING WITH THE LOCAL COMMISSIONERS CONCERNED PRIOR TO HIRING. MINISTER ROLLE STATED THAT THIS

MATTER HAD ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO GCOB MINEXTAFF FOR ACTION.
EMBASSY REQUESTS, THEREFORE, THAT NAVY ADVISE US ON THE SPEC-
IFICS OF ALL SUCH CASES.
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